U. S. of America

AN

EXPLANATION

OF THE

MAP

WHICH DELINEATES THAT PART OF THE

Federal Lands,

Comprehended between Pennſylvania Weſt Line, the Rivers Ohio and Sioto, and Lake Erie; confirmed to the UNITED STATES by ſundry Tribes of Indians, in the Treaties of 1784 and 1786, and now ready for Settlement.

SALEM:

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BRITISH MUSEUM

NEW-YORK, 28th October, 1787.

HAVING attentively perused the following pamphlet, describing part of the western territory of the United States, I DO CERTIFY, that the facts therein related, respecting the fertility of the soil, productions, and general advantages of settlement, &c. are judicious, just and true, and correspond with observations made by me during my residence of upwards of ten years in that country.

THOMAS HUTCHINS,
Geographer of the United States.

AN

EXPLANATION, &c.

THE great river Ohio is formed by the confluence of Monongahela and the Alleghany, in the State of Pennſylvania, about 290 miles weſt of the city of Philadelphia, and about 20 miles eaſt of the weſtern line of that State. In the common travelling road, the former diſtance is computed at 320 miles; and, by the windings and oblique direction of the Ohio, the latter is reckoned about 42. Theſe two ſources of the Ohio are large navigable ſtreams; the former, flowing from the ſoutheaſt, leaves but 30 miles portage from the navigable waters of the Potowmac, in Virginia; the latter opens a paſſage from the northeaſt, and riſes not far from the head waters of the Suſquehanna.

THE State of Pennſylvania have already adopted the plan of opening a navigation from the Alleghany river to the city of Philadelphia, through the Suſquehanna and the Delaware. In this route there will be a portage of only 24 miles.

ON the junction of theſe rivers, or at the head of the Ohio, ſtands Fort Pitt, which gives name to the town of Pittſburgh, a flouriſhing ſettlement in the vicinity of the fortreſs. From this place the Ohio takes a ſouthweſtern courſe of 1188 miles, including its various windings, and diſcharges itſelf into the Miſſiſippi; having paſſed a prodigious

length

length of delightful and fertile country, and received the tribute of a large number of navigable ſtreams. The Muſkingum, the Hockhocking, the Sioto, the Miami, and the Wabaſh, from the northweſt; the Kenhawa, the Kentucky, the Buffaloe, the Shawanee, and the Cherokee, from the ſouth-eaſt, all navigable from 100 to 900 miles, diſcharge themſelves into the Ohio; and yet the Ohio itſelf forms but an inconſiderable part of that vaſt variety of congregated ſtreams which viſit the ocean through the channel of the Miſſiſippi.

THE Ohio, from Pennſylvania to the Miſſiſippi, divides the State of Virginia from the federal lands, or the lands which do not fall within the limits of any particular State. Theſe extend weſtward to the Miſſiſippi, and northward to the boundary of the United States, excepting only the Connecticut reſerve, which is a narrow ſtrip of land, bordering on the ſouth of Lake Erie, and ſtretching 120 miles weſt of the weſtern limit of Pennſylvania. But a ſmall proportion of theſe lands is as yet purchaſed of the natives, and to be diſpoſed of by Congreſs. Beginning on the meridian line, which forms the weſtern boundary of Pennſylvania, they have ſurveyed and laid off ſeven ranges of townſhips. As a north and ſouth line ſtrikes the Ohio in a very oblique direction, the termination of the ſeventh range falls upon that river 9 miles above the Muſkingum, which is the firſt large river that falls into the Ohio. It forms this junction at 172 miles below Fort Pitt, including the windings of the Ohio, though in a direct line it is but 90 miles.

THE lands in which the Indian title is extinguiſhed,

ed, and which are now purchaſing under the United States, are bounded as before deſcribed on the eaſt, by the great Miami on the weſt, by the Ohio on the ſouth, and extend near to the head waters of the Muſkingum and Sioto on the north.

THE Muſkingum is a gentle river, confined by banks ſo high as to prevent its overflowing. It is 250 yards wide at its confluence with the Ohio, and navigable by large batteaux and barges to the *Three Legs*; and, by ſmall ones, to the lake at its head. From thence, by a portage of about one mile, a communication is opened to Lake Erie, through the Cayahoga, which is a ſtream of great utility, navigable the whole length, without any obſtruction from falls. From Lake Erie, the avenue is well known to the Hudſon in the State of New-York. The moſt conſiderable portage in this route is at the fall of Niagara, which interrupts the communication between the lakes Erie and Ontario. From the latter you paſs through the river Oſwego, the Oneyda lake, Wood's creek, and find a ſhort portage into the Mohawk, and another occaſioned by a fall near the confluence of the Mohawk and the Hudſon, at Albany.

THE Hockhocking reſembles the Muſkingum, though ſomewhat inferior in ſize. It is navigable for large boats about 70 miles, and for ſmall ones much farther. On the banks of this very uſeful ſtream are found inexhauſtible quarries of free-ſtone, large beds of iron ore, and ſome rich mines of lead. Coal mines and ſalt ſprings are frequent in the neighbourhood of this ſtream, as they are in every part of the weſtern territory. The ſalt that may

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be obtained from theſe ſprings will afford an inexhauſtible ſtore of that neceſſary article. Beds of white and blue clay, of an excellent quality, are likewiſe found here, ſuitable for the manufacture of glaſs, crockery and other earthen wares. Red bole and many other uſeful foſſils have been obſerved on the branches of this river.

THE Sioto is a larger river than either of the preceding, and opens a more extenſive navigation. It is paſſable for large barges for 200 miles, with a portage of only 4 miles to the Sanduſky, a good navigable ſtream that falls into the lake Erie. Through the Sanduſky and Sioto lies the moſt common paſs from Canada to the Ohio and Miſſiſippi; one of the moſt extenſive and uſeful communications that are to be found in any country. Prodigious extenſions of territory are here connected; and, from the rapidity with which the weſtern parts of Canada, lake Erie and the Kentucky countries are ſettling, we may anticipate an immenſe intercourſe between them. The lands on the borders of theſe middle ſtreams, from this circumſtance alone, aſide from their natural fertility, muſt be rendered vaſtly valuable. There is no doubt, but flour, corn, flax, hemp, &c. raiſed for exportation in that great country betwcen the lakes Huron and Ontario, will find an eaſier outlet through lake Erie and theſe rivers, than in any other direction. The Ohio merchant can give a higher price than thoſe of Quebec, for theſe commodities; as they may be tranſported from the former to Florida and the Weſt-India iſlands, with leſs expence, riſk and inſurance, than from the latter; while the expenſe

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from the place of growth to the Ohio will not be one fourth of what it would be to Quebec, and much leſs than even to the Oneyda lake. The ſtream of Sioto is gentle, no where broken by falls: At ſome places, in the ſpring of the year, it overflows its banks, providing for large natural rice plantations. Salt ſprings, coal mines, white and blue clay, and free-ſtone, abound in the country adjoining this river.

THE undiſtinguiſhing terms of admiration, that are commonly uſed in ſpeaking of the natural fertility of the country on the weſtern waters of the United States, would render it difficult, without accurate attention in the ſurveys, to aſcribe a preference to any particular part; or to give a juſt deſcription of the territory under conſideration, without the hazard of being ſuſpected of exaggeration: But in *this* we have the united opinion of the Geographer, the Surveyors, and every traveller that has been intimately acquainted with the country, and marked every natural object with the moſt ſcrupulous exactneſs—That no part of the federal territory unites ſo many advantages, in point of health, fertility, variety of production, and foreign intercourſe, as that tract which ſtretches from the Muſkingum to the Sioto and the Great Miami rivers.

COL. GORDON, in his journal, ſpeaking of a much larger range of country, in which this is included, and makes unqueſtionably the fineſt part, has the following obſervation:——"The country on the Ohio is every where pleaſant, with large level ſpots of rich land; and remarkably healthy. One general remark of this nature will ſerve for the

whole tract of the globe comprehended between the weſtern ſkirts of the Alleghany mountains ; thence running ſouthweſterly to the diſtance of 500 miles to the Ohio falls ; then croſſing them northerly to the heads of the rivers that empty themſelves into the Ohio; thence eaſt along the ridge that ſeparates the lakes and Ohio's ſtreams, to French Creek—This country may, from a proper knowledge, be affirmed to be the moſt healthy, the moſt pleaſant, the moſt commodious and moſt fertile ſpot of earth, known to the European people."

THE lands that feed the various ſtreams above-mentioned, which fall into the Ohio, are now more accurately known, and may be deſcribed with confidence and preciſion. They are interſperſed with all the variety of ſoil which conduces to pleaſantneſs of ſituation, and lays the foundation for the wealth of an agricultural and manufacturing people. Large level bottoms, or natural meadows, from 20 to 50 miles in circuit, are every where found bordering the rivers, and variegating the country in the interior parts. Theſe afford as rich a ſoil as can be imagined, and may be reduced to proper cultivation with very little labour. It is ſaid, that in many of theſe bottoms a man may clear an acre a day, fit for planting with Indian corn ; there being no under wood ; and the trees, growing very high and large, but not thick together, need nothing but girdling.

THE prevailing growth of timber and the more uſeful trees are, maple or ſugar tree—ſycamore—black and white mulberry—black and white walnut—butternut—cheſnut—white, black, Spaniſh and cheſnut oaks—hickory—cherry—buckwood—ho-

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ney locuſt—elm—horſe cheſnut—cucumber tree—lynn tree—gum tree—iron wood—aſh—aſpin—ſaſſafras—crab apple tree—paupaw or cuſtard apple—a variety of plumb trees—nine bark ſpice, and leather wood buſhes. General Parſons meaſured a black walnut tree near the Muſkingum, whoſe circumference, at 5 feet from the ground, was 22 feet. A ſycamore, near the ſame place, meaſures 44 feet in circumference, at ſome diſtance from the ground. White and black oak, and cheſnut, with moſt of the above-mentioned timbers, grow large and plenty upon the high grounds. Both the high and low lands produce vaſt quantities of natural grapes of various kinds, of which the ſettlers univerſally make a ſufficiency for their own conſumption of rich red wine. It is aſſerted in the old ſettlement of St. Vincent's, where they have had opportunity to try it, that age will render this wine preferable to moſt of the European wines. Cotton is the natural production of this country, and grows in great perfection.

THE ſugar maple is a moſt valuable tree for an inland country. Any number of inhabitants may be forever ſupplied with a ſufficiency of ſugar, by preſerving a few trees for the uſe of each family. A tree will yield about ten pounds of ſugar a year, and the labour is very trifling: The ſap is extracted in the months of February and March, and granulated, by the ſimple operation of boiling, to a ſugar equal in flavour and whiteneſs to the beſt Muſcovado.

SPRINGS of excellent water abound in every part of this territory; and ſmall and large ſtreams,

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for mills and other purpoſes, are actually interſperſed, as if by art, that there be no deficiency in any of the conveniences of life.

VERY little waſte land is to be found in any part of the tract of country comprehended in the map which accompanies this. There are no ſwamps; and though the hills are frequent, they are gentle and ſwelling, no where high nor incapable of tillage. They are of a deep, rich ſoil, covered with a heavy growth of timber, and well adapted to the production of wheat, rye, indigo, tobacco, &c.

THE communications between this country and the ſea will be principally in the four following directions.

1. THE route through the Sioto and Muſkingum to lake Erie, and ſo to the river Hudſon; which has been already deſcribed.

2. THE paſſage up the Ohio and Monongahela, to the portage above-mentioned, which leads to the navigable waters of the Potowmac. This portage is 30 miles, and will probably be rendered much leſs by the execution of the plans now on foot for opening the navigation of thoſe waters.

3. THE great Kenhawa, which falls into the Ohio from the Virginia ſhore, between the Hockhocking and the Sioto, opens an extenſive navigation from the ſoutheaſt, and leaves but 18 miles portage from the navigable waters of James river, in Virginia. This communication, for the country between Muſkingum and Sioto, will probably be more uſed than any other, for the exportation of manufactures, and other light and valuable articles; and,

eſpecially,

eſpecially, for the importation of foreign commodities, which may be brought from the Cheſapeak to the Ohio much cheaper than they are now carried from Philadelphia to Carliſle and the other thick ſettled back counties of Pennſylvania.

4. BUT the current down the Ohio and the Miſſiſippi, for heavy articles that ſuit the Florida and Weſt-India markets, ſuch as corn, flour, beef, lumber, &c. will be more frequently loaded than any ſtreams on earth. The diſtance from the Sioto to the Miſſiſippi is 800 miles; from thence to the ſea is 900. This whole courſe is eaſily run in 15 days; and the paſſage up thoſe rivers is not ſo difficult as has uſually been repreſented. It is found, by late experiments, that ſails are uſed to great advantage againſt the current of the Ohio: And it is worthy of obſervation, that in all probability ſteam-boats will be found to do infinite ſervice in all our extenſive river navigation.

SUCH is the ſtate of facts relative to the natural advantages of the territory deſcribed in the annexed map. As far as obſervations in paſſing the rivers, and the tranſitory remarks of travellers, will juſtify an opinion, the lands farther down, and in other parts of the unappropriated country, are not equal, in point of ſoil and other local advantages, to the tract which is here deſcribed. This, however, cannot be accurately determined, as the preſent ſituation of theſe countries will not admit of that minute inſpection which has been beſtowed on the one under conſideration.

IT is a happy circumſtance, that the *Ohio Company* are about to commence the ſettlement of this

country

country in ſo regular and judicious a manner. It will ſerve as a wiſe model for the future ſettlement of all the federal lands; at the ſame time that, by beginning ſo near the weſtern limit of Pennſylvania, it will be a continuation of the old ſettlements, leaving no vacant lands expoſed to be ſeized by ſuch lawleſs banditti as uſually infeſt the frontiers of countries diſtant from the ſeat of government.

THE deſign of Congreſs and of the ſettlers is, that the ſettlements ſhall proceed regularly down the Ohio; and northward to lake Erie. And it is probable that not many years will elapſe, before the whole country above Miami will be brought to that degree of cultivation, which will exhibit all its latent beauties, and juſtify thoſe deſcriptions of travellers which have ſo often made it the garden of the world, the ſeat of wealth, and the centre of a great empire.

To the philoſopher and the politician, on viewing this delightful part of the federal territory, under the proſpect of an immediate and ſyſtematic ſettlement, the following obſervations will naturally occur.

Firſt. THE toils of agriculture will here be rewarded with a greater variety of valuable productions, than in any part of America. The advantages of almoſt every climate are here blended together; every conſiderable commodity, that is cultivated in any part of the United States, is here produced in the greateſt plenty and perfection. The high and dry lands are of a deep, rich ſoil—producing, in abundance, *wheat, rye, Indian corn, buck wheat, oats, barley, flax, hemp, tobacco, indigo, ſilk,*

ſilk, wine and cotton. The tobacco is of a quality ſuperior to that of Virginia; and the crops of wheat are larger than in any other part of America. The common growth of Indian corn is from 60 to 80 buſhels to the acre.* The low lands are well ſuited to the production of nearly all the above articles, except wheat. Where the large bottoms are interſperſed with ſmall ſtreams, they are well adapted to the growth of rice; which may be produced in any quantities. The borders of the large ſtreams do not generally admit of this crop, as very few of them overflow their banks. But the ſcarcity of natural rice ſwamps is amply compenſated by the remarkable healthfulneſs of the whole country; it being entirely free from ſtagnant waters. It is found, in this country, that ſtagnant waters are by no means neceſſary to the growth of rice; the common rich bottoms produce this crop in as great perfection as the beſt rice ſwamps of the ſouthern States. Hops are the natural production of this country; as are peaches, plumbs, pears, apples, melons, and almoſt every fruit of the temperate zone.

No country is better ſtocked with wild game of every kind: Innumerable herds of deer, elk, buffaloe, and bear, are ſheltered in the groves, and fed in the extenſive bottoms that every where abound; an unqueſtionable proof of the great fertility of the

* General Parsons, one of the Commiſſioners of the treaty at Miami, in 1786, has made in his journal the following note:—"Mr. Dawſon has lived two ſummers at this place—[*Little Beaver, near Pennſylvania weſt line*]—He ſays, his corn is from 80 to 100 buſhels per acre: Laſt year, he planted 7 acres—plowed twice before planting, and hoed once only—and had 600 buſhels."

the ſoil: Turkies, geeſe, ducks, ſwans, teal, pheaſants, partridges, &c. are, from obſervation, believed to be in greater plenty here, than the tame poultry are in any part of the old ſettlements in America.

THE rivers are well ſtored with fiſh of various kinds, and many of them of an excellent quality. They are generally large, though of different ſizes: The cat-fiſh, which is the largeſt, and of a delicious flavour, weighs from 30 to 80 pounds.

PROVISIONS will, for many years, find a ready market on any of theſe rivers; as ſettlers are conſtantly coming in from all parts of the world, and muſt be ſupplied by purchaſe, for one year at leaſt, with many articles.

Second. FROM its ſituation and productions, no country is ſo well calculated for the eſtabliſhment of manufactures of various kinds. Proviſions will be forever plenty and cheap. The raw materials for fabricating moſt of the articles of clothing and dreſs, are and will be the luxuriant production of this country. Though ſilk, cotton and flax are valuable in themſelves, yet, by being wrought into the various articles of uſe and ornament, the expence of tranſportation is proportionably leſſened. The United States, and, perhaps, other countries, will be ſupplied from theſe interior parts of America.

SHIPBUILDING will be a capital branch of buſineſs on the Ohio and its confluent ſtreams. The Ohio, when at the loweſt, admits of four fathom of water, from the mouth of the Muſkingum to its confluence with the Miſſiſippi, except at the rapids, which, at ſuch times, interrupt the navigation

navigation for about one mile. The deſcent, in that diſtance, is only 15 feet; and the channel, which is 250 yards wide, has, at no time, leſs than 5 feet of water. In freſhes, the water riſes 30 feet; and boats are not only rowed againſt the ſtream, but aſcend the rapids by means of their ſails only. It is the opinion of the Geographer, and others, who have viewed the ſpot, that, by cutting a canal a little more than half a mile on the ſouth ſide of the river, which is low meadow ground, the rapids may be avoided, and the navigation made free at all ſeaſons of the year. Hemp, timber and iron will be plenty and good; and the high freſhes, from February to April, and frequently in October and November, will bear a veſſel of any burden over the rapids, in their preſent ſtate, and out to ſea.

THE following obſervations, by an Engliſh engineer, who had explored the weſtern country, were addreſſed to the Earl of Hillſborough, in the year 1770, when Secretary of State for the North American department—at a time when we were Britiſh colonies, and our country conſidered only as the handmaid to Great Britain, in furniſhing raw materials for their manufactures.

"No part of North America will require leſs encouragement for the production of naval ſtores and raw materials for manufactories in Europe; and for ſupplying the Weſt-India iſlands with lumber, proviſions, &c. than the country of the Ohio—and for the following reaſons:

"1. THE lands are excellent—the climate, temperate; the native grapes, ſilk-worms, and mulberry trees, abound every where; hemp, hops and rye grow ſpontaneouſly in the vallies & low lands; lead & iron ore are plenty in the hills; ſalt ſprings are innumer-

able; and no ſoil is better adapted to the culture of tobacco, flax and cotton, than that of the Ohio.

"2. THE country is well watered by ſeveral navigable rivers, communicating with each other; by which, and a ſhort land carriage, the produce of the lands of the Ohio can, even now, be ſent cheaper to the ſeaport town of Alexandria, on the river Potowmac, where General Braddock's tranſports landed his troops, than any kind of merchandiſe is ſent from Northampton to London.

"3. THE river Ohio is, at *all ſeaſons* of the year, navigable with large boats; and, from the month of February to April, large ſhips may be built on the Ohio, and ſent to ſea, laden with hemp, iron, flax, ſilk, tobacco, cotton, potaſh, &c.

"4. FLOUR, corn, beef, ſhip-plank, and other uſeful articles, can be ſent down the ſtream of Ohio to Weſt Florida, and from thence to the Weſt India iſlands, much cheaper, and in better order, than from New York or Philadelphia to thoſe iſlands.

"5. HEMP, tobacco, iron, and ſuch bulky articles, may be ſent down the ſtream of Ohio to the ſea, at leaſt 50 per cent. cheaper than theſe articles were ever carried by a land carriage of only 60 miles in Pennſylvania, where waggonage is cheaper than in any other part of North-America.

"6. THE expence of tranſporting European manufactures from the ſea to the Ohio will not be ſo much as is now paid, and ever muſt be paid, to a great part of the counties of Pennſylvania, Virginia and Maryland. Whenever the farmers or merchants of Ohio ſhall properly underſtand the buſineſs of tranſportation, they will build ſchooners, ſloops, &c. on the Ohio, ſuitable for the Weſt India or European markets; or, by having black walnut, cherry

tree

tree, oak, &c. properly ſawed for foreign markets, and formed into rafts, in the manner that is now done by the ſettlers near the upper parts of the Delaware, in Pennſylvania, and thereon ſtow their hemp, iron, tobacco, &c. and proceed with them to New Orleans.

"IT may not, perhaps, be amiſs to obſerve, that large quantities of flour are made in the weſtern counties of Pennſylvania, and ſent, by an expenſive land carriage, to the city of Philadelphia; and from thence ſhipped to South Carolina, and Eaſt and Weſt Florida—there being little or no wheat raiſed in theſe provinces. The river Ohio ſeems kindly deſigned, by nature, as the channel, through which the two Floridas may be ſupplied with flour, not only for their own conſumption, but alſo for carrying on an extenſive commerce with Jamaica, and the Spaniſh ſettlements in the Bay of Mexico. Millſtones, in abundance, are to be obtained in the hills near the Ohio; and the country is every where well watered with large and conſtant ſprings and ſtreams for griſt and other mills. The paſſage from Philadelphia to Penſacola is ſeldom made in leſs than a month; and 60 ſhillings ſterling per ton freight (conſiſting of 16 barrels) is uſually paid for flour, &c. thither. Boats, carrying 500 or 1000 barrels of flour, may go in about the ſame time from Pittſburgh, as from Philadelphia, to Penſacola, and for half the above freight. The Ohio merchants could deliver flour, &c. there, in much better order than from Philadelphia, and without incurring the damage and delay of the ſea, and charges of inſurance, &c. as from thence to Penſacola. This is not mere ſpeculation; for it is a fact, that about the year 1746 there was a ſcarcity of proviſions at New Orleans; and the French ſettlements at the Illinois, ſmall as they then were,

ſent thither, in one winter, upwards of eight hundred thouſand weight of flour."

IF, inſtead of furniſhing other nations with raw materials, companies of manufacturers from Europe could be introduced and eſtabliſhed in this inviting ſituation, under the ſuperintendence of men of property, it would occaſion an immenſe addition of men and wealth to theſe new ſettlements, and ſerve as a beneficial example of economy to many parts of the United States.

Third. IN the late ordinance of Congreſs, for diſpoſing of the weſtern lands as far down as the river Sioto, the proviſion that is made for ſchools and the endowment of an univerſity, looks with a moſt favourable aſpect upon the ſettlement, and furniſhes the preſentiment, that, by a proper attention to the ſubject of education, under theſe advantages, the field of ſcience may be greatly enlarged, and the acquiſition of uſeful knowledge placed upon a more reſpectable footing here, than in any other part of the world. Beſides the opportunity of opening a new and unexplored region for the range of natural hiſtory, botany and the medical ſcience, there will be one advantage which no other part of the earth can boaſt, and which probably will never again occur—that, in order to begin *right*, there will be no *wrong* habits to combat, and no inveterate ſyſtems to overturn—there is no rubbiſh to remove, before you can lay the foundation. The firſt ſettlement will unboſom many men of the moſt liberal minds—well verſed in the world, in buſineſs and every uſeful ſcience. Could the neceſſary apparatus be procured, and funds immediately eſtabliſhed, for founding a univerſity on a liberal plan, that profeſſors might be active in their various reſearches and employments—even now, in the

infancy

infancy of the ſettlement, a proper uſe might be made of an advantage which will never be repeated.

MANY political benefits would immediately reſult to the United States from ſuch an early inſtitution in that part of the country. The people in the Kentucky and Illinois countries are rapidly increaſing. Their diſtance from the old States will prevent their ſending their children thither for inſtruction; from the want of which they are in danger of loſing all their habits of government, and allegiance to the United States: But, on ſeeing examples of government, ſcience, and regular induſtry, follow them into the neighbourhood of their own country, they would favour their children with theſe advantages, and revive the ideas of order, citizenſhip, and the uſeful ſciences. This attention, from theſe neighbouring people, would increaſe the wealth and population of the new propoſed ſettlement.

Fourth. IN the ordinance of Congreſs, for the government of the territory northweſt of the Ohio, it is provided, that, after the ſaid territory acquires a certain degree of population, it ſhall be divided into States. The eaſtern State, that is thus provided to be made, is bounded on the Great Miami on the weſt, and by the Pennſylvania line on the eaſt. The centre of this State will fall between the Sioto and the Hockhocking. At the mouth of one of theſe rivers, will probably be the ſeat of government for this State: And, if we may indulge the ſublime contemplation of beholding the whole territory of the United States ſettled by an enlightened people, and continued under one extended government—on the river Ohio, and not far from this ſpot, will be the ſeat of empire for the whole dominion. This is central to the whole; it will beſt accommodate every part; it is

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the moſt pleaſant, and probably the moſt healthful.

ALTHO' it is an object of importance, that Congreſs ſhould ſoon fix on a ſeat of government—yet, in the preſent ſtate of the country, it is preſumed, it will not be thought beſt that ſuch ſeat be conſidered as immovably fixed. To take the range of the Alleghany mountains from north to ſouth, it is probable 20 years will not elapſe, before there will be more people on the weſtern than on the eaſtern waters of the United States. The ſettlers ought even now to have it in view, that government will forever accommodate them as much as their brethren on the eaſt: This may be neceſſary, to prevent their forming ſchemes of independence, ſeeking other connexions, and providing for their ſeparate convenience. As it is the moſt exalted and benevolent object of legiſlation that ever was aimed at, to unite ſuch an amazingly extenſive people, and make them happy, under one juriſdiction, every act of Congreſs under the new conſtitution, by looking forward to this object, will, we truſt, inculcate and familiarize the idea. They will, no doubt, at an early period, make a reſervation or purchaſe of a ſuitable tract of land for a federal town, that will be central to the whole; and give ſome public intimation of ſuch intention to transfer the ſeat of government, on the occurrence of certain events—ſuch as, comparative population, &c. This would render ſuch transfer eaſily practicable, by preventing the occaſion of uneaſineſs in the old States; while it would not appear to be the reſult of danger, or the proſpect of revolt, in the new.

EXTRACTS

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From the Letters of M. ST. JOHN DE CREVECŒUR, Conſul of France for the Middle States in America——lately publiſhed in Europe.

"THE Ohio is the grand *Artery* of that part of America beyond the mountains; it is the centre where all the waters meet, which on one ſide run from the Alleghany mountains, and on the other come from the high land in the vicinity of the lakes Erie and Michigan.

"IT has been calculated, that the region watered by thoſe rivers, &c. compriſed between Pittſburgh and the Miſſiſippi, contains at leaſt 260,000 ſquare miles, equal to 166,920,000 acres. It is, without a doubt, the moſt fertile country---the moſt diverſified and beſt watered ſoil, and that which offers to agriculture and commerce the moſt abundant and eaſy reſources, of all thoſe that the Europeans have heretofore diſcovered and peopled.

"IT was on the 10th of April, at eight o'clock in the morning, that we quitted the key of Pittsburgh, and gave ourſelves up to the current of the Ohio."

"THIS ſweet and tranquil navigation appeared to me like an agreeable dream: Every moment preſented to me new perſpectives, which were inceſſantly diverſified by the appearance of the iſlands, points, and the windings of the river, without intermiſſion---changed by this ſingular mixture of ſhores more or leſs woody; whence the eye eſcaped, from time to time, to obſerve the great natural meadows which preſented themſelves, inceſſantly, embelliſhed by promontories of different heights, which for a moment ſeemed to hide, and then gradually unfolded to the eyes of the navigator, the bays and inlets, more or leſs extenſive, formed by the creeks and rivulets which fall into the Ohio. What majeſty in the mouths of the great rivers which we paſſed! Their waters ſeemed to be as vaſt and as profound as thoſe of the river upon which we floated! I never before felt myſelf ſo much diſpoſed for meditation: My imagination involuntarily leaped into futurity; the abſence of which was not afflicting, becauſe it appeared to me nigh——I ſaw thoſe beautiful ſhores ornamented with decent houſes, covered with harveſts and well cultivated fields; on the hills expoſed to the north, I ſaw orchards regularly laid out in ſquares; on the others, vineyard plats, plantations of mulberry trees, locuſt, &c. I ſaw there, alſo, in the inferior lands, the cotton tree, and the ſugar maple, the ſap of which had become an object of commerce. I agree, however, that all thoſe banks did not appear to me equally proper for culture; but, as they will probably remain covered by their native foreſts, it muſt add to the beauty, to the variety, of this future ſpectacle.——What an immenſe chain of plantations! What a long ſucceſſion of activity, induſtry, culture, and commerce, is here offered to the Americans!——I conſider, then, the ſettling of the lands, which are watered by this river, as one of the fineſt conqueſts that could ever be preſented to man; it will be ſo much the more glorious, as it will be legally acquired of the ancient proprietors, and will not exact a ſingle drop of blood——It is deſtined to become the ſource of force, riches, and the future glory of the United States.

"TOWARDS noon, on the third day, we anchored at the mouth of the Muſkingum, in two fathoms and an half of water. In order to give you a weak

a weak idea of what I call the Anatomy of the Ohio, I will ſpeak to you of this river, and let you have a glimpſe of what will one day be the utility of all its branches. It falls into the Ohio 172 miles from Pittsburgh, and is 120 fathoms wide; it is deep, and navigable for large veſſels to 147 miles in the inner part of the lands; its current is moderate, and never overflows the banks, which are elevated, without being ſteep; one of its branches approaches all at once the greateſt of the ſources of the Sioto, called the Seccaium, and the river Sanduſky; this laſt falls, as you know, into the great bay of the ſame name, at the bottom of the lake Erie. It is towards one of the principal branches of the Muſkingum, that the great ſavage village of Tuſcarawa is built; whence a carriage of two miles leads to the river Cayahoga, deep and rather rapid, the mouth of which, in lake Erie, forms an excellent harbour for ſhips of 200 tons. This place ſeems to be deſigned for a ſpot for a town; and many perſons of my acquaintance have already thought of it. All the travellers and hunters have ſpoken to me with admiration of the fertility of the plains and hills watered by the Muſkingum; alſo, of the excellent fountains, ſalt pits, coal mines (particularly that of Lamenchicola), of free-ſtones, &c. that they find throughout.

"It was on the fourth morning, at day-break, we weighed anchor; and, in the ſpace of three days of ſweet and tranquil navigation, anchored before the Sioto, 218 miles from the Muſkingum, and 390 from Pittsburgh, in order to receive on board General Richard Butler, who came from finiſhing ſome negotiations with the Shawaneſe: It is to him I am indebted for the following particulars of that fine river, upon the banks of which he had reſided during five years of the war.

"The Sioto is almoſt as large as the Ohio; its current is navigable, for veſſels of a middle ſize, to the village of Seccaium, 111 miles from its mouth. At this village commences the grand portage of Sanduſky, which is but four miles----a communication much frequented by whites and ſavages, and conſequently of the greateſt importance. This river waters a champaign country, very luxuriant and extenſive.

"Those vaſt lands, ſo well known under the name of the plains of Sioto, begin ſome miles above the river Kuskinkas, and continue almoſt to Seccaium: They are watered by the pretty rivulets of Alaman, Deer, Kiſpoko, &c. and by a great number of more conſiderable ſtreams: It is towards their ſources, that you have a view of the fine villages of the Shawaneſe nation. Many of them are from 25 to 30 miles in circumference; and, as if nature had been willing to render them ſtill more uſeful to man, ſhe has covered them with gentle riſings, upon which ſhe has planted the fineſt trees. Theſe plains are never overflowed, and their fertility is moſt admirable. If a poor man, who has nothing but his arms to ſupport him, ſhould ask of me, where ſhall I go to eſtabliſh myſelf in order to live more at my eaſe, without the aid of oxen or horſes? I would ſay to him, go upon the banks of ſome rivulet on the plains of Sioto; there you will obtain permiſſion of the ſavages of the neighbouring villages to *ſcratch* the ſurface of the earth, and depoſit your rye, your corn, your potatoes, your cabbages, your tobacco, &c. leave the reſt to nature; and, during her operations, amuſe yourſelf with fiſhing and hunting."

"Every ſpring a prodigious nnmber of ſtorks come to inhabit theſe plains; they are at leaſt ſix feet high; while feeding, they have their centinels to watch, and announce the approach of danger; ſome time before their departure they aſſemble in large flocks, and upon a certain day, all together, raiſe themſelves ſlowly, and, by a kind of circular aſcent, deſcribe large ſpiral paths in their flight.

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"Finally, on the 10th day after our departure from Pittsburgh, we anchored before Louiſville, having made 705 miles of navigation, in 212 hours and thirty minutes of time."